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March 12, 2010

Testimony in opposition of:

S. B. No. 382 (RAISED) AN ACT REQUIRING BIODIESEL BLENDED HEATING OIL AND LOWERING THE SULFUR CONTENT OF HEATING OIL SOLD IN THE STATE.

Submitted by Don Tuller, President, Connecticut Farm Bureau Association

The following testimony is submitted on behalf of the Connecticut Farm Bureau, a statewide nonprofit membership organization of over 5,000 families dedicated to farmers and the future of Connecticut agriculture.

Senator Edward Meyer, Representative Richard Roy and members of the Environment Committee:

As President of Connecticut Farm Bureau and a farmer, I am submitting the following testimony to express Connecticut Farm Bureau's opposition to provision of SB 382 that mandates the use of biodiesel heating oil in Connecticut.

While the Connecticut Farm Bureau strongly supports the use alternative fuels, including biodiesel, the effect of this bill will be to further raise the cost of living for every resident of Connecticut and increase the operating costs for business across our state. Connecticut farmers are already paying higher energy costs than competitors in nearby states and for many reasons at an economic disadvantage. Passage of this bill will simply make things worse. Connecticut Farm Bureau encourages its members who wish to voluntarily use biodiesel blend fuels by offering a discount program through a local supplier. To make the use of biodiesel mandatory, will distort supply and demand and result in artificially higher prices Connecticut consumers. Our state and nation is troubled economically. This is the worst possible time to be considering a measure that will make it more expensive to live and work in Connecticut. Please do not move forward with SB 382.

Don Tuller farms with his family on Tulmeadow Farm in West Simsbury.